

West Oakland
Environmental Indicators Project
providing environmental information for positive neighborhood change

**“PROCESS AS
SOLUTION”**

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West Oakland Impacted Residents

A PROBLEM

- “Why are they mad at me, I’m just here to present information?”
- “It’s a good program, but we got caught up in all those other issues.”
- “Aren’t they interested in what we can do for them?”
- “There are too many different people and opinions.”
- “You just can’t work with communities!”

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The recognition of a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution placed on poor communities and communities of color.

Surely it wasn't done on purpose, though. Was it?

A FEW RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

- What's more dangerous, information or ignorance?
- Who will fight first, those who feel threatened or those who feel empowered?
- What's the difference between lecture and dialog?

MODELS FOR CHANGE

Hierarchical model

Patriarchal model

Collaborative model

“I’m in charge, so here’s what we’ll do.”

“I know best, so here’s what we’ll do.”

“I need this, what do you need?”

“Now, what can we do?”

Engagement Challenges

Management

Communications

Decision-making

EXERCISE

David and Goliath

Little -vs- Big
Creating a balance of power

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD

- Resident Co-Chair
- Assures community voice
- Funding
 - Neutral Facilitation
 - Assures Confidence & Fairness
 - Training for resident co-chairs
 - Assures informed discussion
 - stipends for resident participation
 - Assures a sustainable process

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH.

“I’m all for democracy, but my boss (*place appropriate agency, industry or foundation here*) expects measurable results.”

SURPRISING FACT: Communities agree.
Some residents are literally dieing for results.

The WEST OAKLAND TOXICS REDUCTION COLLABORATIVE

A community-led multi-stakeholder problem-solving collaboration between impacted residents, regulatory agencies, government, and industry.

Foundation for Dialog

“Clearing the Air” Report

- Truck route
- Parking enforcement
- Industry incentives
- Trucking center at OAB
- More rail
- Biodiesel
- “Healthy Homes” education

Principles for Collaboration

A formal agreement to a baseline of working goals.

Examples:

Not duplicating existing work

Filling gaps

Finding synergies

Combining forces

Eliminating “roadblocks”

West Oakland Toxic Reduction Collaborative March 2005-March 2006 – Phase 1: Planning

Mar. '05

May

Summer '05

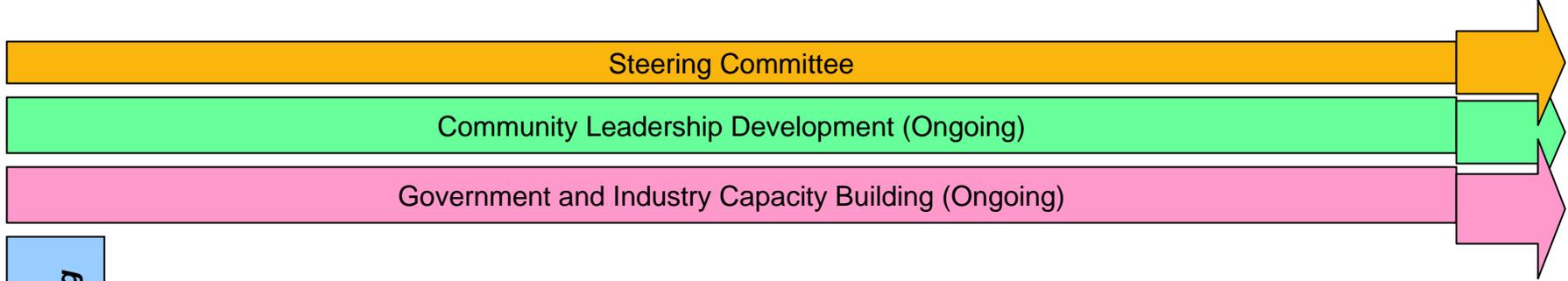
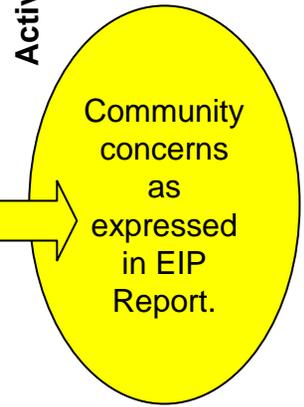
Sept

Fall '05/Winter '06

Mar '06

Activities

Full Convening (1)



Outcomes

Phase 1: Planning

Updated 3-6-05



West Oakland Toxic Reduction Collaborative March 2005-March 2006 – Phase 1: Planning

Mar. '05

May

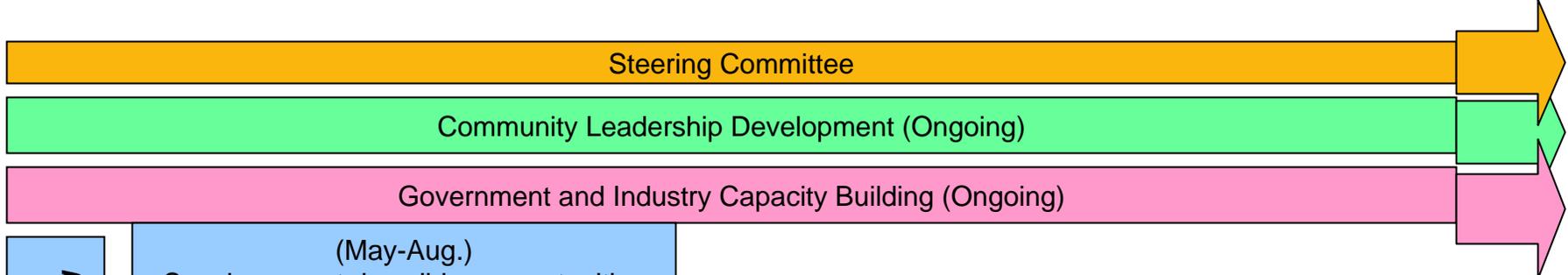
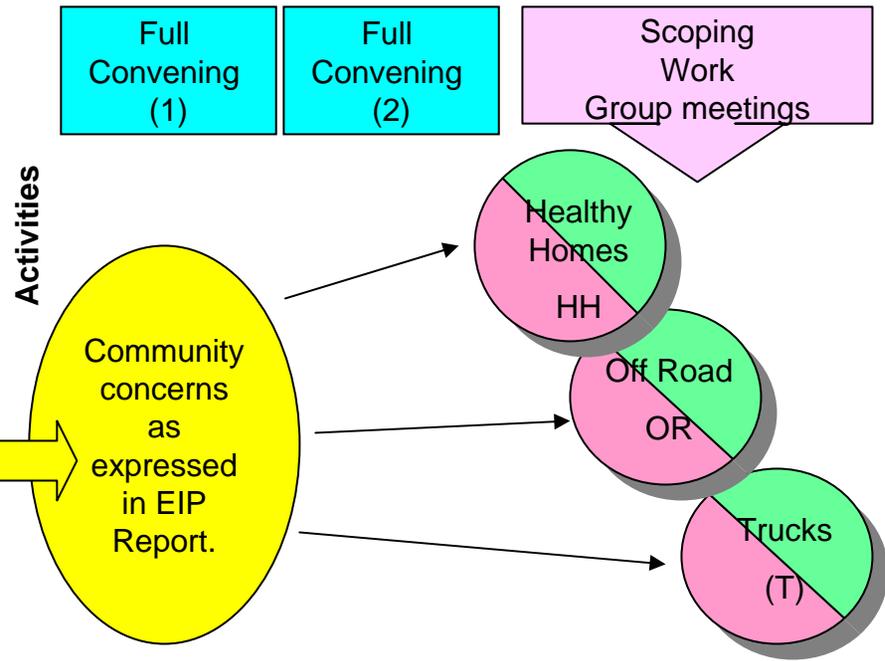
Summer '05

Sept

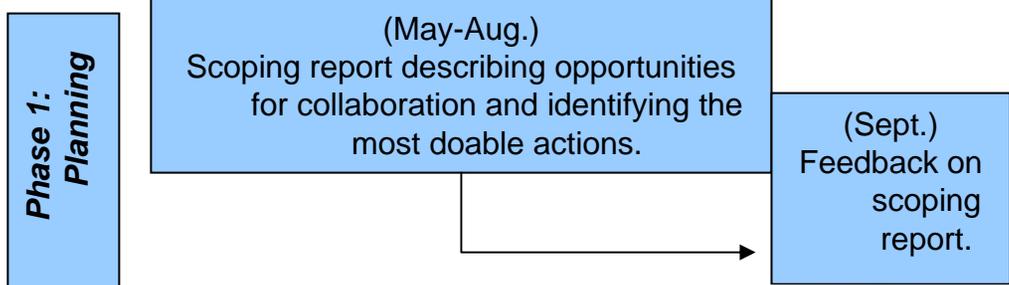
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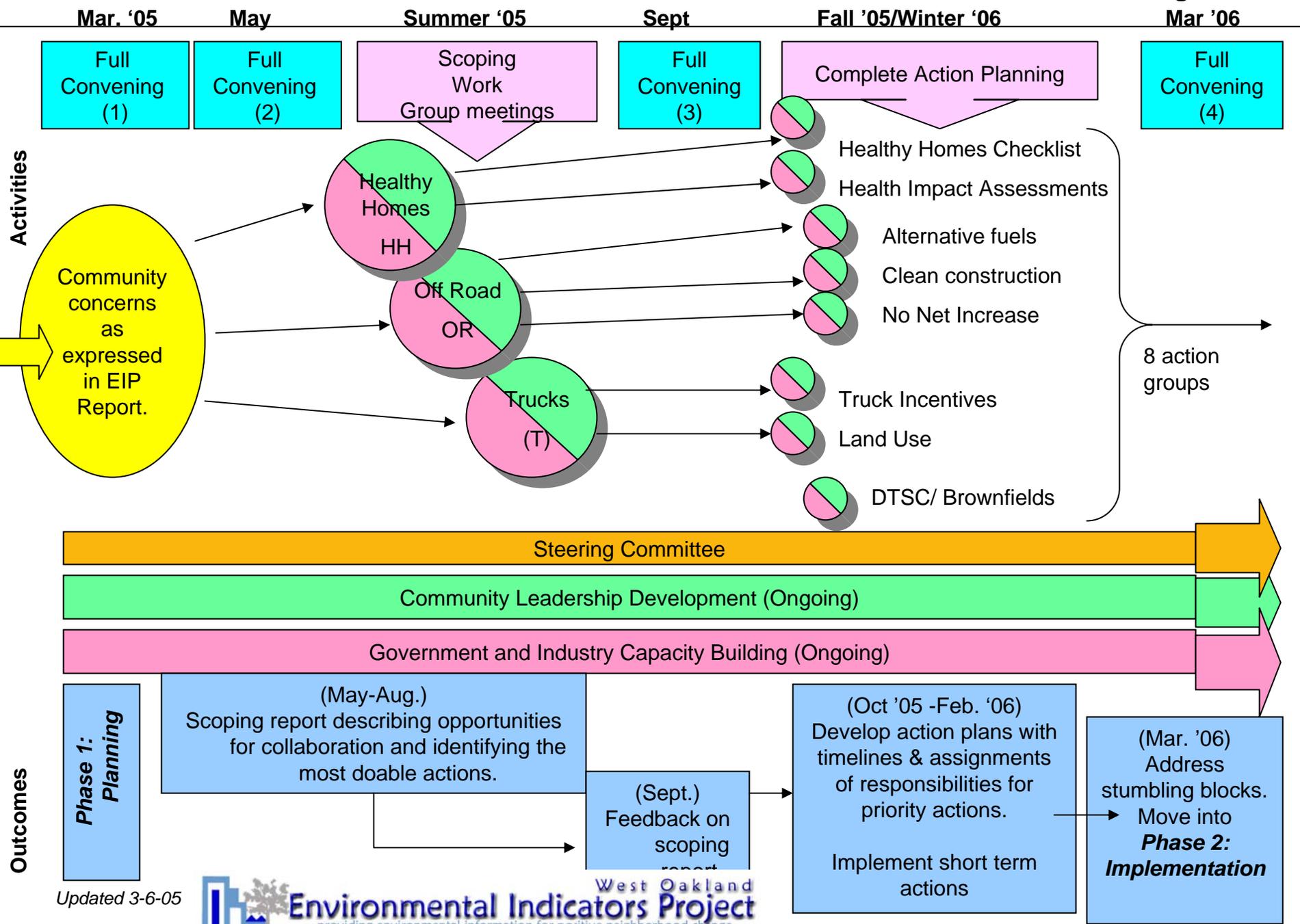
Outcomes



Updated 3-6-05



West Oakland Toxic Reduction Collaborative March 2005-March 2006 – Phase 1: Planning



Updated 3-6-05



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OUTCOMES

- A new truck route was passed in Oakland.
- Phase 1 of a trucking center is being constructed on the OAB.
- Port, BAAQMD, CARB, EPA and the community are working on improving Truck Incentive programs.
- Healthy Homes Checklist has been developed and residents trained.
- A biodiesel market test is beginning.

OUTCOMES

- A “tool kit” for redevelopment developed and community training planned.
- Criteria in development for community priorities for “brownfield” clean-up.
- Health Impact Assessment tool is in use on a new mixed use development project.
- Community leaders are learning issues and building ideas into broader planning.

SUMMARY

- Communities have been abused for a long time. They need a little time to vent.
- Patience is a virtue. Trust doesn't come easily.
- Communities need time to understand and embrace complex solutions.
- Complex solutions demand informed participants. Buy-in is crucial for success.

RESULTS

A well-designed process will produce concrete results and those results will be embraced by all participants.